BEFORE THE KANSAS CORPORATION COMMISSION

OF THE STATE OF KANSAS

In the Matter of the Application of The)	
Victory Electric Cooperative Association,		
Inc. Seeking Commission Approval to) Docket No. 22-VICE	
Update Its Local Access Delivery Service)	
Tariff Pursuant to the 34.5kV Formula		
Based Rate Plan Approved in Docket No.		
21-SEPE-049-TAR.	•	

PREFILED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF

ELENA E. LARSON
MANAGER, RATES AND REGULATORY SERVICES
ECONOMICS, RATES, AND BUSINESS PLANNING
POWER SYSTEM ENGINEERING, INC.

ON BEHALF OF

THE VICTORY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, INC.

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PART I - QUALIFICATIONS

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Q. Please state your name and business address.

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A. My name is Elena E. Larson. My business address is 10710 Town Square Drive NE, Suite 201, Minneapolis, Minnesota 55449. Currently, I am working remotely in Kansas.

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Q. What is your profession?

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A. I am a Manager of Rates and Regulatory Services in the Economics, Rates, and Business Planning Department at Power System Engineering, Inc. ("PSE"), which is headquartered at 1532 W. Broadway, Madison, Wisconsin 53713.

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Q. Please describe the business activities of PSE.

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A. PSE is a consulting firm serving electric utilities across the country, but primarily in the Midwest. Our headquarters is in Madison, Wisconsin with regional offices in Topeka, Kansas;

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Minneapolis, Minnesota; Marietta, Ohio; Cincinnati, Ohio; and Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

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PSE is involved in: power supply, transmission and distribution system planning; distribution,

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substation and transmission design; construction contracting and supervision; retail and

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wholesale rate and cost of service ("COS") studies; economic feasibility studies; merger and

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acquisition feasibility analysis; load forecasting; financial and operating consultation;

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telecommunication and network design, mapping/GIS; and system automation including

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Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition ("SCADA"), Demand Side Management ("DSM"),

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metering, and outage management systems.

Q. Please describe your responsibilities with PSE.

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A. I work on a team of staff that provides economic, financial, and rate-related consulting services to investor-owned, cooperative, and municipal utilities as well as regulators and industry associations. These services include:

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- Cost of Service Studies.
- Capital Credit Allocations.
- Demand Response.
- Distributed Generation Rates.
- Energy Efficiency.
- Financial Forecasting.
- Individual Customer Profitability.
- Large Power Contract Rates/Proposals.
- Line Extension Policies/Charges.
- Load Management Analysis.
- Load Forecasting.

- Market and Load Research.
- Merger Analysis.
- Pole Attachment Charges.
- Policy and Board Audits.
- Power Cost Adjustments.
- Rate Consolidation.
- Retail Rate Design and Analysis.
- Special Fees and Charges.
- Statistical Performance Measurement (Benchmarking).
- Value of Service.

Q. What is your educational background?

A. I graduated from Washburn University in Topeka, Kansas in 2001 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics and a minor in Computer Science. In 2008, I received my Masters of Business Administration ("MBA") degree from Ashford University in Clinton, Iowa.

Q. What is your professional background?

A. Prior to advancing to graduate degree studies in 2006, I worked as a computer programmer for a private corporation and taught mathematics. After graduating with an MBA in September 2008, I began my employment with the Kansas Corporation Commission ("KCC" or "Commission") in Topeka, Kansas in July 2009 as an Energy Analyst in the Energy Operations Section of the Utilities Division. My work responsibilities at KCC at that time included monitoring and assessing various periodic compliance reports (e.g., Quality of Service and Electric Reliability); providing technical analysis on informal and formal electric and gas customer complaints; and assisting in writing the rules and regulations when mandated by the Kansas legislature. In January 2012, I assumed the position of Senior Utility Rate Analyst in the Economics and Rates Section of the Utilities Division of KCC. In that capacity, my responsibilities expanded to filing recommendations and/or testimony addressing utility applications for various tariff modifications, including change of retail and wholesale rates.

In April 2013, I joined PSE, where I assumed a position of Rate and Financial Analyst in the Rates and Financial Planning Department. In January 2018, my title changed to Rate and Regulatory Consultant. In June 2018, I was promoted to Manager, Rates and Regulatory Services. In January of 2021, I left PSE for one year to work at Prairie Land Electric Cooperative as a Manager of Regulatory Services. In February 2022, I re-joined PSE in the same Position as when I left. In my current capacity, my responsibilities include performing rate studies consisting of determination of revenue requirements, cost of service ("COS"), and rate design; developing special rates and programs; and performing other financial analysis for various PSE clients. Additionally, I participate in the leadership of our department by heading PSE's Kansas office branch business development and helping develop strategy in the regulatory services area.

Q. Have you previously presented testimony before the KCC?

A. Yes. I submitted testimony on behalf of KCC Staff in Docket Nos. 11-GBEE-624-COC, 11-MKEE-597-GIE, 12-WSEE-112-RTS, and 12-MKEE-380-RTS; on behalf of Prairie Land Electric Cooperative, Inc. ("Prairie Land") in Docket Nos. 15-PLCE-176-TAR, 17-PLCE-478-TAR, 18-PLCE-462-TAR, 19-PLCE-436-TAR, and 20-PLCE-434-TAR; on behalf of Victory Electric Cooperative Association, Inc. ("Victory" or "Cooperative") in Docket Nos. 17-VICE-481-TAR, 18-VICE-479-TAR, 19-VICE-448-TAR, and 20-VICE-473-TAR; on behalf of Western Cooperative Electric Association, Inc. ("Western") in Docket Nos. 17-WSTE-477-TAR, 18-WSTE-473-TAR, 19-WSTE-443-TAR, and 20-WSTE-440-TAR; on behalf of Midwest Energy in Docket No. 16-MDWE-324-TFR; and on behalf of Southern Pioneer Electric Company ("Southern Pioneer") in Docket No. 18-KPPE-343-COC and 20-SPEE-169-RTS.

In Docket No. 21-SEPE-049-TAR, I submitted testimony on behalf of Prairie Land, Western, and Victory.

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I also helped prepare testimony on behalf of Southern Pioneer, Victory, Western, Prairie Land, and Mid-Kansas Electric Company, LLC ("Mid-Kansas") in Docket Nos. 14-SPEE-507-RTS, 15-SPEE-161-RTS, 15-SPEE-357-TAR, 15-SPEE-519-RTS, 16-MKEE-023-TAR, 16-PLCE-490-TAR, 16-VICE-494-TAR, 16-WSTE-496-TAR, 16-SPEE-497-RTS, and 16-SPEE-501-TAR.

Additionally, I authored Report and Recommendations on behalf of KCC Staff in Docket Nos. 09-KGSG-927-COM, 10-BHCG-409-COM, 10-WSEE-507-TAR, 10-KGSG-535-COM, 10-KGSG-644-COM, 10-MDWE-733-TAR, 11-KCPE-031-COM, 11-WSEE-599-TAR, and 11-MDWE-763-TAR, as well as performed analysis filed with the Applications on behalf of Mid-Kansas, Prairie Land, and Southern Pioneer in Docket Nos. 14-MKEE-084-TAR, 14-PLCE-312-TAR, 15-SPEE-267-TAR, 16-SPEE-306-TAR, 17-SPEE-263-TAR, 18-SPEE-270-TAR, 19-SPEE-236-TAR, 20-SPEE-277-TAR, and 21-SPEE-.

Q. Do you have any other relevant experience?

A. I have attended several industry seminars/courses on cost of service, rate design, pricing, distributed generation, financing transmission expansion, transmission cost allocation, renewable power project siting, etc. I have also presented to the Cooperatives' Boards of Directors and at industry events on the topics of Revenue Requirement, Cost of Service, Rate Design, and Strategic Planning.

PART II - SUMMARY OF DIRECT TESTIMONY

Q. What is the purpose of your testimony in this proceeding?

A. The purpose of my testimony is to support the Application submitted in the instant Docket by Victory for the approval of its 34.5kV Formula Based Rate ("FBR") Annual Update filing for Year 2022 based on the Historical Test Year ending December 31, 2021.

Q. Are there particular Exhibits to Victory's Application that you will be describing and explaining?

A. Yes. My testimony concerns, and is supported by, the following Exhibits to the Application in the instant docket:

Exhibit 5 - 34.5KV FBR Calculation for Test Year Exhibit 12 - Proposed Tariff Sheets Including Rate Adjustment

Q. Have the exhibits been prepared under your supervision?

A. Yes.

Q. Please briefly recap Victory's 34.5kV FBR.

A. The 34.5kV FBR, as approved for Victory by the Commission in Docket No. 21-SEPE-049-TAR ("21-049 Docket"), is a five-year ratemaking plan that provides a method for periodic adjustments to a demand rate assessed on the Cooperative's wholesale customers taking the Local Access Delivery Service ("LADS") over Victory's 34.5kV sub-transmission facilities in its acquired Mid-Kansas division territory.

The details of the predetermined and agreed-upon calculations for the corresponding LADS rate adjustments are outlined in Section D of the Commission-approved Victory's 34.5kV FBR Protocols ("Protocols"), included in the Commission Order Approving Unanimous Settlement Agreement as Attachment A2 to Exhibit A filed in the 21-049 Docket on April 15, 2021. The purpose of this formulaic ratemaking mechanism is to allow for timely adjustments to the aforementioned rate without incurring the substantial expense and/or experiencing regulatory lag typically associated with the preparation of a full rate case.

It should be noted that the Application in the 21-049 Docket represented a request for the continuation of the initial 34.5kV FBR five-year plans approved by the Commission on March 10, 2015 in Docket 16-MKEE-023-TAR ("16-023 Docket) for Victory and three other member-cooperatives of Sunflower Electric Power Corporation. In addition to the request to

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continue the initial FBR plans for the next five years, the applicants in the 21-049 Docket also sought, and were granted, the limited modification and minor clarifications to the initial FBRs, such as simplifying the process by adopting a historical test year and eliminating debt service projections and clarifying some language in the Protocols. Parties also sought and received the approval of the update to the line loss factors for their respective LADS tariffs. Q. What data formed the basis for Victory's 2022 34.5kV FBR calculation?

A. Consistent with the Protocols, the calculation was based upon a 2021 Historical Test Year. As such, it utilized historical figures from Victory's (Mid-Kansas division) December 2021 Operating Income Statement, Balance Sheet, Payroll Journal, and 2021 Monthly Trial Balance.1

Q. Were there any extraordinary adjustments made to the 2021 Historical Test Year data in this year's filing that are outside of the adjustments dictated by the Protocols?

A. Yes. In Accordance with the Commission's Order issued on February 15, 2021 in Docket No. 21-GIMX-303-MIS, Victory excluded principal and interest attributable to debt the Cooperative took out to cover its extraordinary purchased power costs related to Storm Uri.²

O. Please summarize the results of Victory's 2022 34.5kV FBR calculation.

(Supplemental Schedules, which include 12-month average Trial Balance).

A. Completing the 34.5kV FBR template calculation consistent with the Protocols approved by the Commission in the 21-049 Docket results in the Total Revenue Requirement of \$3,045,192. In accordance with Section D.4 of the Protocols, the resultant total dollar amount was divided

Included in Victory's Application as part of Exhibits 4 (Year-End Comparative Operating Income Statements and Balance Sheets), 6 (Year-End Trial Balances), 7 (Year-End Payroll Journals), and 8

See Page 3, Part C of the Order. This is a one-time adjustment. Exhibit 8 filed in the instant Docket identifies

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debt service related to Storm Uri, see CoBank note 1003358711(T07) - EER detail. Inputs into this year's populated template for Long-term Interest and Principal (flowing into the LADS rate calculation from Page 2 of Exhibit 5, lines 45 and 62) already reflect amounts after excluding Storm Uri portion. See also Shane 25 Laws testimony filed in the instant Docket.

by the total billing demand for the Historical Test Year; to arrive at the final rate of \$2.81/kW. The resulting final LADS rate of \$2.81/kW represents a \$0.89/kW or a 24.11% decrease from Victory's currently effective rate for LADS of \$3.70/kW authorized by the Commission in Docket No. 21-VICE-412-TAR. Translated into total dollars, this constitutes a \$967,707 decrease.³ Applying Victory's wholesale customers' Load Ratio Share ("LRS") of 6.50 percent indicates approximately \$62,892 of the overall decrease is attributed to these customers on the combined basis. The detailed 34.5kV FBR calculation for the Test Year is contained in Exhibit 5 attached to the Application filed in the instant Docket.

PART III - ADJUSTMENTS TO THE ACTUAL TEST YEAR RESULTS

- Q. You stated that 2021 actual results formed the basis for the 34.5kV FBR calculation. The Protocols specify a limited number of adjustments to be made. What adjustments did you make to Victory's actual 2021 financial results in completing the 34.5kV FBR template?
- A. Per Sections D.1.b and D.1.e of the Protocols, and in recognition of the Commission policy adopted per K.S.A. 66-101f (a), Administrative and General ("A&G") expense was adjusted to remove certain amounts associated with the dues, donations, charitable contributions, promotional advertising, penalties and fines, and entertainment expenses incurred during the Test Year.⁴ The excluded amounts, as well as reasoning in support of inclusion or exclusion of the associated items, are noted on Page 7 of Exhibit 5.

Calculated by applying the \$0.89/kW adjustment to the Test Year total billing determinants (kW).

K.S.A. 66-101f (a) allows adoption of a policy of "disallowing a percentage, not to exceed 50%, of utility dues, donations and contributions to charitable, civic and social organizations and entities, in addition to disallowing specific dues, donations and contributions which are found unreasonable or inappropriate."

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further allocated to remove the costs not associated with Victory's 34.5kV facilities.

Finally, Section D.2 of the Protocols mandates that certain revenue and expense categories be

- O. Please describe the adjustments made to the 2021 Test Year Operating Expenses in conjunction with the Protocols' Section D, sub-sections b and e, and the Commission's policy per K.S.A. 66-101f (a).
- A. A reduction in the amounts of \$60,649 and \$19,925, as evidenced on Page 1 of Exhibit 5, Line 10 and Line 20, Column (e), were applied to the historical amount of \$3,083,820 in A&G Expense and the historical amount of \$36,653in Other Deductions, respectively, in order to remove the amounts associated with promotional or image advertising and dues and donations; i.e., activities traditionally disallowed by the Commission either as unnecessary to provide safe, efficient, reliable electric utility service, or consistent with the Commission policy adopted per K.S.A. 66-101f (a). Accordingly, historical amounts, as recorded in Victory's applicable GL accounts, were adjusted as follows: promotional or image advertising items were excluded 100 percent, and dues and donations items were excluded 50 percent. Note that advertising associated with items such as public safety announcements, annual meeting notices, legal ads, and job postings were not removed, as those activities are directed toward keeping the members well informed and/or represent direct business expense and thus align with the Commission-advocated goal of providing safe, efficient, and reliable electric utility service.⁵ Additionally, dues associated with the Kansas Electric Cooperatives, Inc. ("KEC") statewide organization membership were not removed for similar reasons, as KEC functions for the mutual benefit of its member-cooperatives to promote rural electrification and provides

Expenses related to both company image and safety-related messages were excluded 50 percent.

essential services, such as safety programs and inspections, Occupational Safety and Health Administration ("OSHA") compliance, Cooperative staff and Board training, and administrative functions on a state-wide level.

Detailed listings of the aforementioned items by GL account and the corresponding adjustments performed can be found in Exhibit 9 attached to the Application in the instant Docket. The summary of the adjustments by GL, as well as the methodology applied by Victory, is included in Exhibit 5, Page 7. The adjustment was further reflected on Page 3 of Exhibit 5, Lines 9-11 and Lines 13-19. The resultant adjusted A&G amount is \$3,023,171, as reflected on Page 1, Line 10, Column (f) of Exhibit 5; and the resultant adjusted Other Deductions amount is \$16,728, as reflected on Page 1, Line 20, Column (f) of Exhibit 5.

- Q. On page 6 above, Lines 11-15, you stated there was an additional adjustment included in this year's filing that is outside of the adjustments prescribed by the Protocols and is aimed at excluding debt service costs related to Storm Uri. Please describe this Commission-mandated adjustment.
- A. Since this is one-time extraordinary adjustment, in order to minimize modification to the template's established flow of the calculation, the adjustment to historical Long-Term interest and Principal were made on the input Workpaper 1, or page 2, of the Exhibit 5 filed in the instant Docket, see lines 45 and 62. Accordingly, historical Long-term Interest Expense of \$2,335,253, as reflected on Operating Income Statement/Exhibit 4, was reduced to remove \$135,615 in interest associated with the Storm Uri-related CoBank debt (as noted in Exhibit 8, note 003358711 (T07) EER detail), resulting in the net \$2,199,638 being included in Exhibit 5, page 1, Lines 17 and 25. Similarly, historical Principal amount of \$8,912,763, as reflected in Exhibit 8, was reduced to remove \$7,094,530 in principal associated with the Storm Uri-related CoBank debt (as noted in Exhibit 8, note 003358711 (T07) EER detail), resulting in the net \$1,818,233 being included in Exhibit 5, page 1, Line 24.

- Q. Next, please describe how the adjusted system-wide financial results were allocated to the 34.5kV system to arrive at Victory's 34.5kV FBR Revenue Requirement that includes only those costs which are associated with the Cooperative's sub-transmission facilities used in the provision of LADS.
- A. Section D.2 of the Protocols specifies the methodology for allocating applicable total system-wide operating expenses and margin requirements to the 34.5kV system so as to arrive at the revenue requirement associated with Victory's sub-transmission facilities used to provide LADS in the acquired Mid-Kansas service territory. Following is an explanation of the allocations:
 - Per Section D.2.a of the Protocols, the A&G expenses are to be allocated using a Labor ratio ("LAB"), where the latter is calculated as a ratio of Transmission Labor to Total Non-A&G Labor. The corresponding labor dollar amounts are found in the Labor Amount Column of the December 31, 2021 Payroll Journal, included with Exhibit 7 attached to the Application filed in the instant Docket. Next, Exhibit 5, Page 4, Lines 7-20 show how the resultant LAB ratio of 0.013840 is calculated. Applying LAB to the \$3,023,171 in Adjusted Historical Test Year A&G expense assigns \$41,839 to the 34.5kV FBR, as shown in Exhibit 5, Page 1, Line 10, Column (i).
 - Depreciation and Amortization Expense is to be calculated directly (a.k.a. "direct-assignment") in accordance with Section D.2.b of the Protocols. Therefore, the \$654,747 in Transmission plant depreciation for the Historical Test Year is allocated to the 34.5kV FBR in its entirety, as evidenced on Page 1, Line 13, Column (i) of

Again, to clarify, "system-wide," as used in this context, is intended to mean combined distribution and transmission.

Exhibit 5. The \$112,675 in General Plant Depreciation Expense for the Historical Test Year is to be allocated on the LAB ratio, ultimately assigning \$1,559 to the 34.5kV FBR, as evidenced on Page 1, Line 14, Column (i) of Exhibit 5.

For allocating Taxes - Other, Other Deductions, Interest on Long-Term Debt, Other Interest, Principal Payments, and Offsets to Margin Requirements, the Budget Year Net Transmission Plant Ratio ("NP") is calculated. The Historical Test Year NP, as defined in Section D.2 of the Protocols, reflects the ratio of the average monthly Transmission Net Plant to the average monthly Total Net Plant for the 2021 Historical Test Year. The calculation of the NP allocation factor is detailed on Page 4, Lines 22-47 of Exhibit 5. The results of applying the calculated NP of 0.379509 to the corresponding Adjusted Historical Test Year expenses are evidenced on Page 1, Lines 15-25, Column (i) of Exhibit 5.

It should also be noted that the Transmission Operation and Maintenance Expense is a category that is directly related to the provision of the LADS. Therefore, it was assigned 100 percent (i.e., using allocator of 1.0) to the 34.5kV FBR Revenue Requirement.

PART IV - REVENUE REQUIREMENT AND RATE CALCULATION

- Q. How was Victory's 34.5kV FBR Total Revenue Requirement calculated after performing all the adjustments and allocations detailed above?
- A. Per Section D.4 of the Protocols, the Total 34.5kV FBR Revenue Requirement is a sum of all the applicable operating expenses and margin requirements. Specifically, after the 2021 actual operating expenses were adjusted as directed by the Protocols and allocated to reflect the

Net Transmission Plant includes a General Plant allocation based upon a LAB ratio.

portion applicable to the Cooperative's sub-transmission facilities used in the provision of the LADS, the Total Cost of Service was quantified at \$2,174,828, as evidenced on Page 1, Line 21, Column (i) of Exhibit 5. Next, the Net Margin Requirement was calculated using 1.8 OTIER and 1.8 MDSC metrics, as contemplated in Section D.3 of the Protocols. The same Section dictates that the ratio resulting in greater net margins required will be used. An MDSC of 1.8 produced \$870,364 in margin requirements, which was greater than the \$298,712 margin requirements produced by OTIER of 1.8, as evidenced on Page 1, Lines 23-30, Column (i) of Exhibit 5. Accordingly, applying the MDSC-produced \$870,364 in Net Margin Requirement to the \$2,174,828 in Total Cost of Service generates the 34.5kV FBR Total Revenue Requirement of \$3,045,192.

Q. Please explain how the resultant wholesale demand rate for LADS was determined.

A. Section D.4 of the Protocols further directs that the 34.5kV FBR Total Revenue Requirement is to be divided by the Total Billing Demand for the Test Year. The latter is comprised of both retail and wholesale billing determinants on Victory's 34.5kV system for the Mid-Kansas division, and factors in the appropriate losses percentages, as specified in Victory's Commission-approved LADS tariff.⁸ For 2021 Test Year, the Total Billing Demand for Victory's 34.5kV system was quantified at 1,085,091 kW, as reflected on Page 1, Line 36, Column (i) of Exhibit 5 and further detailed on Page 6 of the same Exhibit. Dividing the resultant Total Revenue Requirement of \$3,045,192 by 1,085,091 kW produces the unadjusted rate of \$2.81/kW, a \$0.89/kW, or 24%, decrease compared to the existing LADS rate of

The billing determinants, as well as the financial information used to calculate the LADS rate, still represent the Cooperative's Mid-Kansas division's data, as required by the Commission-approved 34.5kV FBR Protocols. The line loss percentage incorporated in the billing determinants is based on the Commission-approved percentages as stated in the April 15, 2021 Order on Unanimous Settlement Agreement filed in the 21-049 Docket.

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\$3.70/kW. The main driver behind this year's decrease is the allocation of cash patronage capital from Victory's Generation and Transmission provider, which reduced margin requirement.⁹ Absent that margin offset, 2022 LADS for the Cooperative would have been \$3.15/kW, 12 percent higher than \$2.81/kW but still a decrease compared to present LADS. Decrease in total cost of service, reduction in debt service, and an increase in the total billing determinants compared to 2020 Historical Test Year also contributed to a rate decrease.

Q. What is your final recommendation to the Commission?

A. My recommendation is to approve Victory's Application in the instant Docket, as the resultant rate is reflective of the COS, which was calculated in accordance to the Commission-approved 34.5kV FBR Protocols, and therefore is just and reasonable and in the public interest.

- Q. Have the proposed tariffs as required in the Protocols in Section E.12 been provided?
- A. Yes, they are included as Exhibit 12 of the Application filed in the instant Docket.
- **Q.** Does this conclude your prefiled Direct Testimony?
- 14 A. Yes, it does.

It should also be noted that given the MDSC formula used, the wholesale customers were given the benefit of this margin offset even though they did not fully participate in creating equity in G&T; furthermore, Victory is also obligated by its bylaws to retire that cash patronage to its members, thus inadvertently resulting in a "double" rate reduction for the Cooperative on both retail and wholesale sides.

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1	VERIFICATION
2	STATE OF KANSAS)
3) ss NORTON COUNTY)
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5	The undersigned, Elena E. Larson, upon oath first duly sworn, states that she is the Manager, Rates and Regulatory Services, Economics, Rates, and Business Planning for
6	Power System Engineering, Inc.; that she has read this Prefiled Direct Testimony and knows the contents thereof; and, that the facts therein are true and correct to the best of her
7	knowledge, information, and belief.
8	Elena E. Larson
9	Elena E. Larson
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1	Subscribed and sworn to before me this 28 th day of April, 2022.
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3	Notary Public
4	Notary Public
5	My appointment expires:
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7	Notary Public - State of Kansas My Appt. Expires
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